S 23 Aug 1909
Monday

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Aug 23

My Billy.

After my letter to you had gone tonight came the estimate. As I probably shant have time to write tomorrow I will write this now just to let you get it.

Lift (cage & gear)	25. 0. 0.
Wiring for bells & light	55. 0. 0
Exterior painting & repairs	72. 0. 0.
Interior painting & decoration	93. 0. 0.
Inside alterations (including alterations to bathroom, 4 W.Cs. new housemaids cup. boards, new sinks, new windows, etc)	185. 0. 0
	£430. 0. 0

about £380 - or about £127 each.

Yours
VB

S 23 Aug 1909
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46, Gordon Square,
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	£430. 0. 0

about £380 - or about £127 each - Yours VB

He explains that he has put in an extra £20 for possible contingencies. which is why it comes to £430 instead of £410. One thing I have written to him about, which is the electric wiring. He said today that he thought it would look much better if we had some electric bells instead of the very decrepit old bell handles now there - & also no electric light & fitting in the hall - the rest of the house to have no fittings, but some new plugs

the pair in in some of the rooms
he also said that he thought
the present wiring was very
rotten & therefore proposed to
re-wire the whole house - this
seems to me unnecessary.
For tenants wont know if
the wiring is rotten or not -
& if there are no fittings,
especially. So I have written
to say that I think that
if he could put me in two
electric bells & a new
fitting in the hall, we could
leave the rest, especially
as its a very large item.
The rest of the estimate
awaits your consideration

The lift seems to me cheap & probably is an alteration so I expect its work dirty. The painting outside must anyhow be done I think & certainly would have to be sooner or later. The interior painting I think would have to be done too - as most of the rooms do look pretty shabby. The large item of interior alterations consists chiefly of making new windows in the basement & one on the staircase which of course would make the house much lighter. What do you & Adrian think of it? If you take off £50 for the wiring & margin of £20 for contingencies, it would come to

T. PARSONS 3.2.73

17 Aug 1909

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Tuesday.

My Billy.

I had your letter waiting in the train this morning - also no from Storm. I had better I think give you the address of the woman at Studland, as I don't know when you want the rooms or how many you want. Mrs King, Agglestone House, Studland Bay, Dorset sounds the best according to Sylvia. If you like I will write if you tell me what you want. In fact, to save time, I

You write affectionate - was to say despise - I said you had had a declaration from Lou. Yr VW.

17 Aug 1909

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Tuesday.

My Billy.

I had your letter waiting in the train this morning. Also one from Saxon. I had letter I think give you the address of the woman at Studland, as I don't know when you want the rooms or how many you want. Mrs King, Agglestone House, Studland Bay, Dorset Sounds the best according to Sylvia. If you like I will write if you let me what you want. In fact, to save time, I

You write affectionate messages to Saxon. I said you had had a declaration from her. Yr VWS.

I think I had better write to her now, asking whether she would have me or two bedrooms to let & a sitting room from about the 16th of September. I will say that I am not sure what you want & ask her to let me know what she has. Then meanwhile you can tell me what you do want. If she has to write to you it will take so long. Or if you have to write to her only after getting this. I must commit

you but will make enquiries, as I believe lodgings are scarce. I had Hale to sit this morning & the portrait is at last finished & she went trudging off to do prosaic jobs & buy a pineapple for an old man who had eaten nothing for 9 weeks! I had Norton to luncheon! He wrote last night to say he was going to be in London today on his way to Scotland to stay with the Stracheys & would come to lunch. We had no very interesting talk & I had to go immediately after lunch. He is probably going today with us at Studland and

during the last week we are there. Then we came back here where I feel that we sink once more in an atmosphere of respectability & I tomorrow into the position of nurse - But Julian is at present very attractive & learning new words & tricks every day - & as I shall have Dorothy to do most of the tiresome part I shant really mind. What is to be done about your underclothes. To say nothing of worse - which link appear in such unfortunate places? Can't you possibly remember that there are some articles which must be packed whatever else is left out? Nurse said that Otto line had talked of

25 Aug 1909

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Wednesday.

My Baby.

I write [illegible] in pencil because I have no ink, being in Julian room where Sandy [illegible] to bed. I had your letter this afternoon from Dresden. which delighted and was successful in fact. Perhaps it will be better when Swan has gone. I hope you aren't disappointed at me by this time. You will have had my letter saying we were

25 Aug 1909

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.
Wednesday.

My Billy.
I write you in pencil because I have no ink, being in Julian room where Sandy Dorothy is fed. I had your letter this afternoon from Dresden. which delighted and was successful in fact. Perhaps it will be better when Swan has gone. I hope you are always comforted by the thought. You will have had my letter saying we were

Spring Gardens on the
16th. I have not yet heard
if we can have the rooms
then but I expect we
shall be able to. I hope
you will stay in London
for Sept 1st at the latest
May I not hear from you
another week before
we do? Julian must
come back here on the
8th so if you were at
Scarborough then or very
near it might save a distance

My dear Ben many thanks for
your letter which is both
[illegible] but it is on the
whole a much cooler one
than it was. One piece of
news I have. Violet, Conrad's
wife, is pregnant & baby
[illegible] after Christmas. It is
rather surprising & also, I think,
a very good thing, for great
weight of sentiment will be
heaped on [illegible] on
[illegible] - they will be I hope
to the best [illegible]
I think also, incidentally, it
may make it much easier
for us to come home & live.
Otherwise as Neal we shan't
know [illegible] for [illegible]
had her letter - or I suppose [illegible]

[Seend]

26 Aug 1909

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury. Thursday.

My Billy.

I had your letter this afternoon. Mine seem to have been very irregular in getting to you. My fate is not so hard as you seem to imagine! I dispose of Julian from 11 to 1 & from 2-30 to 4 every afternoon & for all meals. So really I don't have him so very much more than usual except that I sleep with him & have to be about the premises to keep a general eye on him. Also we shall only have 3 meals here - & the family

atmosphere has been very much lightened by Mr Bell's absence. Then we constantly have sorrows for dinner! So you see my lot has its compensations.

I imagine you will be rather relieved when Satan leaves you. Did Adrian tell his letter from Wales did it contain a cheque or a brief? You tell me to write you a nice letter but how the devil am I to? You can't squeeze water from a stone - is that it - I think the saying I want has something to do with cheese but I can't remember. Mrs Raven Hill came to lunch today - rather

passée worship. but with decent clothes. Clive & I are to lunch with them on Sunday & so escape roast-beef here. She is certainly amusing & a great relief after Lorna & Dorothy. I should think Dorothy will marry soon. She is I suppose a successful young lady: rich & neat - no bird perform on her hat; nor does she lose her combs - "straightforward" & good at games. She is kind & intends & purposes quite well again now though I believe she has not really quite recovered. She plays tennis & wears ordinary clothes & looks quite well. The Ball self-satisfied & probably to marry Evelyn & the Hare when their baby is born. but dislike not to quite so objectionable & me

when my own dying is not
to a large extent the cause
of it, as with Julian. He is
good-tempered & hearties
about his nurse & when he
never seems to mind. He
sat into my bed this morning &
at first didn't notice who was
there & only talked to himself
about moo-cows & pigeons saying
coo-coo. Then he suddenly saw
me & roared with laughter.
I suppose I shall be a joke
to him too. His greatest pleasure
is to push me down flat on
the ground & climb over me.
Now I have regaled you with
some maternal news. Do you
think of him much. I have
you begun your stones.

Tell the Apes to be good if they
want a peep when they get
back. I think they're getting
out of hand. I haven't heard how
your lodgings get. Yours B.

Cleeve House. 27 Aug 1909

46 Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury. Friday.

My Billy.

I had a measly scrap from you today - chiefly on business. I never heard anything about Adrian's thief. & the only letter that Sophy told me she sent in his linen was the one from Walter which I suppose he rt. I asked her if that could be a thief & she said no - but I don't know how she could tell except perhaps by size. I hope he will get it all right. I am trying to get

is materially. You would turn it to account though.

Cleeve House. 27 Aug 1909

46 Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Friday.

My Billy.

I had a nearly drop from you today - chiefly on business. I never heard anything about Adrian's thief. & the only letter that Sophy told me she sent on to him was the one from Wales which I suppose he got. I asked her if that could be a thief & she said no - but I don't know how she could tell except perhaps by size. I hope he will get it all right. I am trying to get

is materially. You would turn it to account there yet.

your lodgings. But the woman whose name I gave you has gone till October. She gave me the name of another woman to whom I have written. I expect if the worst comes to the worst you could be housed with us. Perhaps you could stand it for a fortnight. But I have not yet heard if our people can have us in the 16th. I wish you could go there earlier & have me down for a day or two between the 8th & 16th.

As you can imagine my days aren't very interesting unless you would like details of Julian's last word & last tooth - I am writing here as usual after leaving mine up in his room at 10 o'clock - which part of my duties I rather like here as I sit quietly by myself with a candle, instead of sitting in the family circle under a glaring electric light. Besides I am always so afraid of blotting sedulous sentences on Mr Bell's blotting paper downstairs or leaving a stray sheet somewhere. One thing I know with this

Balls - unlike Lytton & Theo. they would never in any circumstances, read a letter which wasn't theirs

I have got your Times article & will keep it in case you want it. What do you think of it? I feel incompetent to judge ("that means you think it bad") no. but I don't feel as if I should agree with what you say of him - if I had read his works - which I haven't. Of course there is always something in your writing - isn't there? but no doubt you know all about it - I can't do a stroke of painting as long as I have Julian - rude

T. PARSONS 3.2.73